

1 **DIRECT TESTIMONY OF**

2  
3 **JIMMY E. ADDISON**

4 **ON BEHALF OF**

5  
6 **SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY**

7  
8 **DOCKET NO. 2008-196-E**

9  
10  
11 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, BUSINESS ADDRESS, AND**  
12 **POSITION.**

13 A. My name is Jimmy E. Addison and my business address is 1426 Main  
14 Street, Columbia, South Carolina. I am Senior Vice President and Chief  
15 Financial Officer of South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (“SCE&G”  
16 or the “Company”) and hold a similar position at SCANA Corporation,  
17 which is the parent company of SCE&G.

18 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATION AND BUSINESS**  
19 **BACKGROUND.**

20 A. I am a graduate of the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of  
21 Science Degree in Business Administration, majoring in accounting, and a  
22 Master of Accountancy Degree. Also, I am a Certified Public Accountant in  
23 South Carolina. Prior to my employment by the Company in March 1991, I  
24 was employed for seven years by the public accounting firm of Deloitte &  
25 Touche, where I was designated an Audit Manager as a public utility  
26 accounting and audit specialist. I was also a partner in the public accounting

1 firm of Hughes, Boan and Addison immediately prior to joining the  
2 Company in 1991.

3 **Q. WHAT ARE YOUR DUTIES WITH SCE&G?**

4 A. As Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of SCE&G, I have  
5 responsibility for monitoring the Company's present and prospective  
6 financial condition; for formulating strategies to ensure that the Company  
7 can meet its capital requirements at the lowest reasonable cost; and for  
8 managing all accounting and financial matters related to the Company. In  
9 that regard, I meet regularly with members of the financial community,  
10 including the Wall Street analysts and credit rating agency personnel who  
11 follow the electric utility industry in general and SCE&G specifically. In  
12 these meetings, we discuss their perceptions and concerns about the  
13 Company, its financial and business position, its long-term strategy, capital  
14 plans, the capital markets and the utility industry generally. We also  
15 discuss the various risk factors that the Company faces as seen by  
16 investors. I am also regularly involved in discussions of investors'  
17 perspectives on the Company with underwriters and other experts as such  
18 views pertain to the issuance or refinancing of debt and the issuance of  
19 new common stock.

20 **Q. WHAT LEVEL OF CONTACT HAVE YOU HAD WITH**  
21 **MEMBERS OF THE INVESTMENT COMMUNITY IN RECENT**  
22 **MONTHS?**

1     A.     During 2008, I have participated in multiple presentations to investment  
2             analysts, fund managers and others in New York, Boston, and  
3             Philadelphia, and have hosted several presentations in SCANA's offices in  
4             Columbia. I also hosted multiple conference calls with members of the  
5             investment community during this time. These contacts have involved  
6             detailed presentations of SCE&G's financial and construction plans and  
7             extensive conversations with members of the financial community about  
8             their questions and concerns related to these plans.

9             In addition, as will be described more fully later in my testimony,  
10            two of our principal credit rating agencies, Standard & Poor's and Fitch  
11            have recently concluded in-depth, confidential reviews of SCANA and  
12            SCE&G as a part of a comprehensive review of the companies' credit  
13            ratings. Moody's is in the process of concluding its review now. The  
14            rating agencies have conducted detailed reviews of SCE&G's plan to  
15            construct and finance VCSNS Units 2 & 3. While these rating agencies  
16            have concerns about certain issues related to these matters, SCE&G's  
17            principal long-term credit ratings were confirmed at a single A- level by  
18            both agencies. I will discuss these ratings actions in more detail later in  
19            my testimony.

20     **Q.     WHAT ROLE HAS THE DECISION BY THE COMPANY TO**  
21     **CONSTRUCT VCSNS UNITS 2 & 3 PLAYED IN YOUR**

1           **DISCUSSIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE INVESTMENT**  
2           **COMMUNITY?**

3       A.           The construction and financing plans for VCSNS Units 2 & 3 have  
4           been the predominant focus of my recent discussions with investors, fund  
5           managers, investment analysts, and rating agency personnel. Over the past  
6           six months, I have spent a great deal of time with members of the  
7           investment community in discussions centered on construction of VCSNS  
8           Units 2 & 3, the EPC Contract with Westinghouse/Stone & Webster, and  
9           SCE&G's plan for financing this construction. My goal has been to ensure  
10          that the investment community understands the Company's financial plan  
11          and the steps that the Company is taking to manage the risks related to the  
12          construction of those units. The time I have spent in these discussions has  
13          given me a thorough understanding of the interests and concerns of the  
14          investment community related to VCSNS Units 2 & 3, and what will be  
15          necessary for SCE&G to finance VCSNS Units 2 & 3 on reasonable terms.

16       **Q.   WHAT IS YOUR CONCLUSION CONCERNING THOSE**  
17       **MATTERS?**

18      A.           As I will discuss more fully below, it is my opinion that the  
19           Company is fully capable of financing the construction of VCSNS Units 2  
20           & 3 on reasonable terms provided that it receives an order in the current  
21           proceeding that is consistent with the request in the Combined  
22           Application. As my testimony will show, the investment community sees

1 the Company as a well-managed and financially sound utility with all the  
2 tools necessary to complete the construction and financing of VCSNS  
3 Units 2 & 3 successfully. From the investor's perspective, a key question  
4 remaining to be answered is whether the Commission will issue a Base  
5 Load Review Order for the units on the terms requested in the Combined  
6 Application. The investors' other principal questions relate to the timing  
7 of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC") licensing for the units –  
8 which could affect the construction schedule, and the possible effects of  
9 inflation and other cost issues on construction.

10 In my opinion, executing the financial plan related to the units  
11 depends principally on the Commission's order in this proceeding.  
12 Members of the investment community have asked extensive and detailed  
13 questions about the terms of the Base Load Review Act and the Combined  
14 Application in this proceeding. They are following the current  
15 proceedings closely. From my perspective, the order in this proceeding  
16 will be the principal determining factor in the ability of the Company to  
17 finance the construction of VCSNS Units 2 & 3 on reasonable terms.

18 **Q. DOES YOUR TESTIMONY CONSIDER OTHER POINTS?**

19 A. Yes. I will also testify concerning the importance of the financial  
20 and schedule contingencies contained in that Combined Application to the  
21 assessment of the Base Load Review Order by the financial community

1 and the cost of equity that the Company has designated in the Combined  
2 Application.

3 **SCE&G'S FINANCIAL POSTURE**

4 **Q. WHAT IS SCE&G'S CURRENT FINANCIAL POSTURE?**

5 A. SCE&G and SCANA both have solid financial structures and the  
6 investment community generally has a positive view of the Company and  
7 its management and strategic direction.

8 **Q. ON WHAT DO INVESTORS BASE THAT VIEW?**

9 A. The investment community values the fact that SCE&G is a stable,  
10 vertically-integrated electric utility with a service territory that is  
11 experiencing significant growth. The investment community also  
12 recognizes that SCE&G's parent company, SCANA Corporation, has a  
13 strong commitment to its core utility operations and takes an appropriately  
14 conservative approach to the management of those operations and to  
15 investment in non-utility operations. SCE&G also benefits from the fact  
16 that utility regulation in South Carolina is seen as fair and reasonable,  
17 constructive, consistent and appropriately balancing diverse interests. It is  
18 well recognized that SCE&G has made significant capital investments in  
19 its electric system in recent years to meet the requirements of customer  
20 growth and increasingly stringent environmental regulations. The  
21 investment community has followed the related regulatory proceedings  
22 closely and believes that the Commission has treated both customers and

1 the Company fairly in regards to such investments.

2 **Q. HOW DO CREDIT RATING AGENCIES RATE SCE&G'S**  
3 **CREDIT?**

4 **A.** SCE&G has solid investment grade credit ratings by all three  
5 national credit rating agencies. SCE&G's issuer ratings are: Moody's A3;  
6 Fitch A-; and Standard & Poor's A-. These issuer ratings reflect an  
7 assessment of the Company's financial strength that is favorable and is  
8 consistent across all three rating agencies. (*i.e.*, an A3 rating by Moody's is  
9 equivalent to an A- rating by Fitch and Standard & Poor's.) Senior  
10 secured debt, which includes the corporate bonds that would be issued to  
11 finance investments in VCSNS Units 2 & 3 over the long term, have  
12 slightly higher ratings: Moody's A2; Fitch A+; and Standard & Poor's A-.

13 **Q. WHAT DO THE RATINGS THEMSELVES INDICATE?**

14 **A.** The ratings indicate that rating agencies are quite confident in the  
15 on-going financial strength of the Company. All other things being equal,  
16 the ratings mean that SCE&G should be able to maintain access to markets  
17 on reasonable terms to meet future needs for debt financing. The ratings  
18 are quite strong, and even if downgraded one or two notches, SCE&G  
19 would remain a solid investments grade credit.

20 **Q. WHAT IMPACT HAS SCE&G'S NUCLEAR CONSTRUCTION**  
21 **PLANS HAD ON THESE RATINGS?**

22 **A.** First of all, and very significantly, in August, both Fitch and

1 Standard & Poor's affirmed a single A- rating for SCE&G having  
2 carefully reviewed the terms of the EPC Contract with  
3 Westinghouse/Stone & Webster, the Combined Application in this  
4 proceeding, the Base Load Review Act, the Company's application for a  
5 Combined Operating License ("COLA") with the Nuclear Regulatory  
6 Agency, and most especially the Company's approach for financing  
7 VCSNS Units 2 & 3. I know from interactions with these rating agencies  
8 that they looked very closely at all these matters, and specifically studied  
9 the terms of the Base Load Review Act and the Combined Application in  
10 this proceeding in great detail. These rating agencies based their decisions  
11 to affirm a favorable credit rating for the Company in part on their  
12 assessment of the Company's financial and construction plans as they are  
13 to be implemented under the terms of the Base Load Review Act. If these  
14 rating agencies had concluded that the Company's approach to  
15 constructing and financing VCSNS Units 2 & 3 was unworkable or  
16 fundamentally flawed, the result would not have been a single A- credit  
17 rating for SCE&G. The ratings granted demonstrate that the agencies have  
18 found reasonable grounds to conclude that if SCE&G is allowed to execute  
19 its intended approach to constructing and financing these units, the  
20 Company can continue to support a solid credit rating and access to capital  
21 markets on reasonable terms.

22 **Q. WHAT IS THE OUTLOOK FOR THESE RATINGS?**



1 A. Moody's gives SCANA's and SCE&G's ratings an outlook of  
2 Stable. The Fitch and Standard and Poor's ratings were accompanied by a  
3 finding that the Company's outlook was Negative. The negative outlook  
4 indicates only that, as Fitch has expressly stated, it will be difficult for the  
5 Company to maintain its current credit status if circumstances prevent it  
6 from executing its current plans for building and financing VCSNS Units 2  
7 & 3 as intended.

8 As stated by Standard & Poor's:

9 A Standard & Poor's rating outlook assesses the potential direction  
10 of a long-term credit rating over the intermediate term (typically six  
11 months to two years). In determining a rating outlook, consideration  
12 is given to any changes in the economic and/or fundamental  
13 business conditions. An outlook is not necessarily a precursor of a  
14 rating change or future CreditWatch action.

15  
16 There is an unavoidable element of risk in any base load generation  
17 expansion plan. As Standard & Poor's stated in its August 2, 2008 release:  
18 "The current ratings reflect SCANA's excellent business risk profile and a  
19 moderate improvement in the financial risk profile over the last 12 months.  
20 Ratings also reflect the potential for increased business risk and for  
21 pressure on the consolidated financial risk profile as SCANA prepares to  
22 build two new nuclear power plants."

23 As Fitch stated in its press release of August 4, 2008 in reference to  
24 the change in outlook: "Ultimately, the rating impact will depend on  
25 management's financing plan, its ability to control construction costs, the

1 regulatory treatment of investment expenditures and capital market  
2 access.”

3 **Q. IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD OF A**  
4 **SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN RATINGS AS A RESULT OF**  
5 **NUCLEAR CONSTRUCTION?**

6 A. As Fitch has indicated, the principal issues concerning the future of  
7 SCE&G’s credit ratings are construction cost control, licensing and the  
8 regulatory treatment of investment in new nuclear assets. As Mr. Marsh  
9 and Mr. Byrne will testify, the Company has greatly reduced the cost-  
10 related risk through the Firm/Fixed price elements of the EPC Contract  
11 and other measures. As they also testify, the Company is confident that  
12 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will issue a Combined Operating  
13 License for the units on a schedule that will support the construction  
14 schedule currently before the Commission.

15 Regulatory treatment of SCE&G’s investment in the units is the  
16 remaining issue and is chiefly in the hands of this Commission. It is my  
17 opinion, based on extensive interaction with the investment community,  
18 that if the Commission issues a Base Load Order along the lines requested  
19 in the Combined Application in this proceeding, then that issue will be  
20 largely resolved. SCE&G will have demonstrated the regulatory  
21 conditions necessary for it to finance the units successfully and to maintain  
22 access to debt capital on reasonable terms during construction.

1   **Q.   DO THE 2007 DOWNGRADE OF SCE&G’S CREDIT RATING BY**  
2       **MOODY’S AND THE DROP IN SHORT TERM RATING BY**  
3       **FITCH PUT IN DOUBT SCE&G’S ABILITY TO FINANCE VCSNS**  
4       **UNITS 2 & 3 SUCCESSFULLY?**

5   A.       No, they do not. In December of 2007, Moody’s downgraded  
6       SCE&G’s issuer’s rating by one notch to its current, but still very  
7       favorable, A3 level. As a result of its August 2008 review, Fitch  
8       downgraded the short-term debt of SCANA and its subsidiaries, but  
9       affirmed its Single A- rating for SCE&G as an issuer and an A+ rating for  
10      SCE&G’s senior secured debt. Even after these rating revisions, SCE&G  
11      as an issuer retains a consistent single A- equivalent rating across all rating  
12      agencies. These rating changes, although not welcome, do not in any way  
13      cast doubt on the ability of the Company to issue long term debt on  
14      reasonable terms going forward. SCE&G still enjoys a strong investment  
15      grade rating that has been affirmed by two rating agencies after a  
16      comprehensive review of the Company’s plans for building and financing  
17      VCSNS Units 2 & 3.

18   **Q.   TURNING TO THE EQUITY COMPONENT OF THE CAPITAL**  
19       **STRUCTURE, COULD YOU DISCUSS HOW SCANA STOCK IS**  
20       **PERFORMING?**

21   A.       Share prices and price earnings ratios can and will vary  
22       significantly over time due to market conditions and other factors.

1        Nonetheless, at the time this testimony is filed, shares in SCANA  
2        Corporation have recently traded in the \$35-\$40 dollar range and with a  
3        price to earnings ratio between 12 and 13. These figures indicate that  
4        SCANA shares command a good valuation in national equity markets and  
5        that SCANA should be able to raise equity capital on reasonable terms to  
6        support its construction plans.

7                These favorable share prices also follow extensive scrutiny of  
8        SCE&G's plans to construct and finance VCSNS Units 2 & 3 by sell-side  
9        investment analysts, and buy-side investment and hedge fund managers.  
10       Based on my contacts with them, through multiple presentations over this  
11       period, I know that these groups have carefully scrutinized the Base Load  
12       Review Act, SCE&G's filings in this proceeding, and SCE&G's proposed  
13       approach for financing VCSNS Units 2 & 3. Analysts and managers have  
14       taken this information and the financial information contained in the  
15       Combined Applications in this proceeding, and have entered it into the  
16       financial models that they maintain to evaluate the Company's financial  
17       prospects and to predict its future financial performance. The current  
18       stock value reflects the results of their analysis and their expectation of the  
19       outcome of this proceeding.

20               In my opinion, the equity investment community is reasonably  
21       comfortable that SCE&G's financing approach is workable and likely to  
22       succeed. If the equity investment community believed that SCE&G's plan

1 for constructing and financing VCSNS Units 2 & 3 was fundamentally  
2 flawed or unworkable, then SCANA stock would be trading at a  
3 significant discount, which it is not.

4 **Q. WHAT IS THE STATED POSITION OF INVESTMENT**  
5 **INSTITUTIONS REGARDING SCANA STOCK?**

6 **A.** Presently SCANA stock is rated by seven financial institutions. Of  
7 the seven, two believe that SCANA stock will outperform market  
8 expectations and so have issued a Buy recommendation. Four believe that  
9 SCANA stock will perform up to current expectations and have issued a  
10 Hold recommendation. Only one investment house believes that SCANA  
11 will underperform current expectations, and has issued a Sell  
12 recommendation. The two Buy recommendations are based on reviews of  
13 SCANA stock in the late summer of 2008 based on an extensive and  
14 detailed review of all publically available information related to the EPC  
15 Contract, the Combined Application in this proceeding, the Combined  
16 Operating License Application before the NRC and SCE&G's approach  
17 for financing VCSNS Units 2 & 3. Again, if the Company's plans for  
18 constructing or financing these units were believed to be unworkable or  
19 fundamentally flawed, the recommendations from these analysts would  
20 likely be quite different.

21 **SCE&G'S PLAN FOR FINANCING CONSTRUCTION**  
22 **OF VCSNS UNITS 2 & 3**  
23

1   **Q.   PLEASE   EXPLAIN   SCE&G’S   PLAN   FOR   FINANCING**  
2       **CONSTRUCTION OF VCSNS UNITS 2 & 3.**

3   A.           SCE&G’s capital plan calls for the Company to finance the  
4           construction of VCSNS Units 2 & 3, and other capital needs of SCE&G,  
5           through the issuance of long-term debt matched with retained earnings and  
6           equity infusions from SCANA so that incremental investment is  
7           effectively financed at equity/debt ratio of approximately 50/50. Since the  
8           shares of SCE&G are not publically traded, outside equity will be raised  
9           by SCANA either through new public issues, or by issuing new shares to  
10          satisfy the current needs of employee’s 401(k) investments and current  
11          shareholders’ dividend reinvestments.

12   **Q.   WHAT ROLE WILL RATE REVISIONS UNDER THE BASE**  
13       **LOAD REVIEW ACT PLAY IN THIS PLAN?**

14   A.           During the construction period, SCANA and SCE&G will rely on  
15          annual rate adjustments under the Base Load Review Act. Those  
16          adjustments will provide revenue to cover debt service on bonds, to  
17          maintain the financial ratios required to support an investment grade credit  
18          rating, and to pay the dividends and generate the earnings necessary to  
19          support a reasonable stock price. The financing approach is intended to  
20          provide sufficient revenues for SCE&G to maintain the financial ratios and  
21          valuation criteria necessary to keep an investment grade credit rating, to  
22          meet all requirements of its bond indentures, to maintain stable earnings,

1 and to support a solid valuation for SCANA equity.

2 **Q. WHAT IS SCANA'S PLAN RELATED TO DIVIDEND PAYMENTS**  
3 **DURING THIS TIME?**

4 A. During this period, SCANA's plan is to maintain dividend pay-out  
5 ratios that are comparable to its current ratios of 55-60%. As mentioned  
6 above, maintaining stable and predictable dividend pay-out ratios are very  
7 important to maintaining a favorable valuation for a utility stock.

8 **Q. WHAT IS SCE&G'S PLAN CONCERNING ANNUAL REVISED**  
9 **RATE ADJUSTMENTS?**

10 A. The estimated revised rates adjustments necessary to support the  
11 financing plan for VCSNS Units 2 & 3 are found in Exhibit M to the  
12 Combined Application which is attached to my testimony as **Exhibit M**  
13 **(Exhibit \_\_ (JEA-1)).** As set forth in **Exhibit M**, at **Chart B**, the average,  
14 annual rate increase necessary to support investment in the units is  
15 estimated to be 2.49%.

16 **Q. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION CONCERNING SCE&G'S PLAN FOR**  
17 **FINANCING THE CONSTRUCTION OF VCSNS UNITS 2 & 3?**

18 A. It is my opinion that SCE&G's plan for financing VCSNS Units 2  
19 & 3 is entirely reasonable and workable assuming the order issued here is  
20 as requested. If the provisions of the Base Load Review Act are applied in  
21 that order as the Company has requested, then the Company will have a

1 reasonable opportunity to earn the cash returns required to support the debt  
2 and equity necessary to finance the units on reasonable terms.

3 **Q. WHAT IS THE BASIS OF YOUR CONCLUSION?**

4 A. My conclusion is based on financial modeling which shows that the  
5 Company can maintain the necessary measures of financial strength and  
6 attractiveness to investors under the assumptions laid out in the Combined  
7 Application. SCE&G's financing plan carefully considers the financial  
8 ratios, dividend payout ratios and other fundamentals on which the  
9 applicable credit ratings and the valuations of stock are based. With an  
10 appropriate order in this proceeding and timely rate adjustments during  
11 construction, SCE&G and SCANA can maintain financial ratios and other  
12 fundamental measures of investment value which will support a solid  
13 investment grade rating for SCE&G's debt and a reasonable valuation for  
14 shares of SCANA's equity during the construction period.

15 **Q. IS THE ORDER IN THIS PROCEEDING IMPORTANT TO**  
16 **INVESTORS IN OTHER WAYS?**

17 A. Yes. In the immediate sense, the Base Load Review Act provides  
18 investors with clear assurances that if a reasonable order is issued here,  
19 SCE&G will have the cash resources necessary to finance VCSNS Units 2  
20 & 3 successfully during construction. From another perspective, the  
21 prudence determination under the Base Load Review Order provides  
22 assurances that the Company's decision to proceed with construction of



1 the units, once affirmed, will not be second-guessed later. Such second  
2 guessing puts at risk not just the cash needed to support financing during  
3 construction, but also the investors' confidence that they will receive a  
4 reasonable return on their capital in the long-term.

5 **Q. DO CUSTOMERS BENEFIT FROM THE ASSURANCES THAT**  
6 **THE BASE LOAD REVIEW ACT GIVES TO INVESTORS?**

7 A. Yes, customers receive a benefit from these assurances in the form  
8 of reduced financing costs for the units, which results in lower rates.  
9 Financial markets serve in large measure to evaluate and price financial  
10 risk. Actions that reduce risks reduce the cost of obtaining capital. For a  
11 capital-intensive endeavor like the construction of new base load  
12 generation units, reduced risks and lower capital costs mean much lower  
13 electricity costs to customers over the lifetime of the plant. Regulation  
14 passes these lower costs to customers in the form of lower rates.

15 **Q. WOULD A CHANGE IN THE CREDIT RATINGS OR STOCK**  
16 **VALUATIONS MENTIONED ABOVE CHANGE YOUR**  
17 **ASSESSMENT THAT SCE&G'S PLAN FOR FINANCING THE**  
18 **CONSTRUCTION OF VCSNS UNITS 2 & 3 IS FUNDAMENTALLY**  
19 **SOUND AND WORKABLE?**

20 A. No, it would not. The current credit ratings and stock values  
21 provide a valuable point of independent confirmation for the conclusion  
22 that SCE&G's financing plan is sound. If it were not, those ratings and

1 values would be different. But my opinion about the validity and  
2 soundness of that plan is not dependent on them. My opinion is based on  
3 the analysis discussed above.

4 That said, changes in credit ratings and stock valuations are to be  
5 expected over the course of a project as lengthy and complex as the  
6 construction of two nuclear units. Changes in these items may or may not  
7 have any real bearing on the soundness of the Company's plan. Any such  
8 changes would need to be reviewed carefully to determine what, if any,  
9 relevance they might have to the Company's analysis showing that the  
10 financing plan is fundamentally sound.

#### 11 **CONTINGENCIES AND INFLATION FACTORS**

12 **Q. WHAT PRICE CONTINGENCIES DOES THE APPLICATION**  
13 **CONTAIN?**

14 A. The Combined Application contains price contingencies in the  
15 amounts and categories that are set forth in Exhibits F and I of the  
16 Combined Application. In addition, SCE&G has asked for the flexibility  
17 to use the price contingency as a single pool of funds and to be able to  
18 move those funds from year to year as needed to meet actual contingencies  
19 as they arise.

20 **Q. WHAT SCHEDULE CONTINGENCIES DOES THE**  
21 **APPLICATION CONTAIN?**

1 A. The Combined Application contains two schedule contingencies. If  
2 the construction schedule is delayed, one contingency would allow  
3 SCE&G to move any or all schedule milestones into the future by 30  
4 months without jeopardizing the validity of the order in this proceeding.  
5 The other schedule contingency allows the project schedule or elements of  
6 it to be accelerated. That acceleration contingency allows milestones and  
7 their associated capital costs to be moved forward by up to 24 months  
8 without violating the terms of the order in this proceeding.

9 **Q. ARE THESE CONTINGENCIES AUTHORIZED BY THE BASE**  
10 **LOAD REVIEW ACT?**

11 A. Yes. Contingencies as to schedule and cost are specifically  
12 required by the Base Load Review Act in orders issued under it. See S.C.  
13 Code Ann. § 58-33-270(b)(2).

14 **Q. WHAT SIGNIFICANCE DO THESE CONTINGENCIES HAVE**  
15 **FOR SCE&G'S PLAN FOR FINANCING CONSTRUCTION OF**  
16 **VCSNS UNITS 2 & 3?**

17 A. These contingencies serve to assure investors that even if there are  
18 reasonable deviations from the price and schedule projections contained in  
19 the Combined Application, the financial assurances granted by the order in  
20 this proceeding will not be put in jeopardy, and the revised rates filings on  
21 which the financial plan is based will not be put in doubt. The Company  
22 does not currently anticipate needing to use these contingencies, but the

1 presence of them will assure investors that if circumstances change --  
2 within reasonable limits-- SCE&G's ability to carry through on its  
3 financing plan will not be made uncertain, even for the limited period of  
4 time that might be necessary to amend the order in this proceeding. These  
5 are important and valuable assurances that will ultimately benefit the  
6 customers.

7 **Q. WHAT INFLATION AND ESCALATION FACTORS DOES THE**  
8 **APPLICATION CONTAIN?**

9 A. The Combined Application contains several inflation and escalation  
10 factors that apply to different categories of plant capital costs. They are as  
11 set forth in Exhibits I to the Combined Application.

12 **Q. WHAT SIGNIFICANCE DO THESE INFLATION AND**  
13 **ESCALATION FACTORS HAVE FOR SCE&G'S PLAN FOR**  
14 **FINANCING CONSTRUCTION OF VCSNS UNITS 2 & 3?**

15 A. These inflation factors provide assurances to investors that the  
16 capital cost schedules contained in Exhibit F to the Combined Application  
17 will adjust automatically for inflation as experienced during the  
18 construction period, which is 11 years long. As Company Witness Best  
19 will testify, the inflation factors chosen are reasonable. They are either the  
20 negotiated escalation factors that will directly apply to costs based on the  
21 terms of the EPC Contract or they are objectively reported inflation factors  
22 in wide-spread use in the industry. Applying those factors to the costs in

1 Exhibit F of the Combined Application is an appropriate and helpful  
2 means of reducing investors' concerns about the inflation risk related to  
3 investing in this project.

4 **Q. ARE THESE INFLATION FACTORS AUTHORIZED BY THE**  
5 **BASE LOAD REVIEW ACT?**

6 A. Yes. Inflation factors are specifically required by the Base Load  
7 Review Act to be set forth in orders issued under it. See S.C. Code Ann.  
8 §§ 58-33-250(7); 58-33-270(b)(2).

9 **RETURN ON EQUITY**

10 **Q. WHAT RETURN ON EQUITY IS SCE&G REQUESTING FOR**  
11 **CALCULATING REVISED RATES?**

12 A. For purposes of the order in the proceeding, and unless and until  
13 revised by future filings by the Company, SCE&G is requesting that the  
14 11.0% return on equity established in Order 2007-855-E apply to revised  
15 rates filings related to VCSNS Units 2 & 3. Such a request is authorized  
16 under the Base Load Review Act, S.C. Code Ann. §§ 58-33-250, and 58-  
17 33-220(16). SCE&G believes that a current return on equity set at that  
18 11.0% level will provide sufficient cash flow to support financing of the  
19 units, and will meet investors' reasonable expectations of a return given  
20 the risks involved in base load construction. No project-specific return on  
21 equity is requested here. Company Witness Best will put in evidence  
22 SCE&G's current capital structure and cost of debt as adjusted for

anticipated debt issuances in the near term. These figures will be updated with each future revised rates filing.

## CONCLUSION

**Q. WHAT ARE YOU ASKING THIS COMMISSION TO DO?**

A. SCE&G respectfully requests that the Commission issue a combined order under the Base Load Review Act, and the Siting Act approving construction of VCSNS Units 2 & 3 under the terms set forth in the Combined Application in this matter.

**Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

A. Yes, it does.

## EXHIBIT M

### **YEAR-BY-YEAR REVENUE REQUIREMENTS AND PROJECTED RATE IMPACT OF INVESTMENT**

**Combined Application of South Carolina Electric & Gas Company for a  
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and  
Necessity and for a Base Load Review Order  
Public Service Commission Docket No. 2008-196-E**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

**Exhibit M** provides the year-by-year revenue requirements associated with SCE&G's investment in V. C. Summer Nuclear Station ("VCSNS") Units 2 & 3. **Exhibit M, Chart B**, provides the projected rate impact associated with the Units.

#### **2. YEAR-BY-YEAR REVENUE REQUIREMENTS**

**Chart A** of **Exhibit M** provides the year-by-year revenue requirements associated with the amount of Construction Work in Progress (CWIP) and of VCSNS Units 2 & 3 as set forth in **Exhibit F** to this Application and the in-service expenses set forth on **Exhibit O** to this Application. As required by the Base Load Review Act, the revenue requirements set forth on this **Exhibit M, Chart A** have been calculated using the weighted average cost of capital set forth on **Exhibit L** to this Application.

The outstanding CWIP balance and associated revenue requirement provided in **Exhibit M, Chart A** is measured as of June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year during the construction of VCSNS Units 2 & 3. The filing date of future revised rates proceedings, the designated date for measuring CWIP to be considered in each proceeding, the amount of capital actually expended by each designated date, and other factors may vary, and as a result, the timing and amount of CWIP reflected in future revised rates adjustments may vary.

#### **3. PROJECTED RATE IMPACT OF INVESTMENT**

Also attached to this **Exhibit M** is **Chart B** which provides an estimate of the future impacts of the CWIP and in-service expenses associated with VCSNS Units 2 & 3 on SCE&G's retail electric rates. To isolate the impact of the investment in VCSNS Units 2 & 3 from other factors, the current retail fuel factor is assumed to remain constant, as are the margin revenues generated per billing unit by retail electric base rates. However, projected growth in retail customers' demand and energy sales and the benefit of additional nuclear generator or fuel costs where VCSNS Units 2 & 3 connection line are reflected in the analysis. The projections in this **Exhibit M, Chart B**, also include the effects of estimated Federal Production Tax Credits. As

indicated in the notes to **Exhibit O, Chart A**, the Company intends at a future date to seek Commission approval to pass any available Federal Production Tax Credits through to customers by means of credits to electric fuel cost expenses.

Many of the factors related to this analysis and to future rate increases are subject to change over time. Those factors include the amount and timing of CWIP expenses and in-service expenses; the timing of revised rates filings; the amount of AFUDC included in capital costs; the rates of growth in demand and energy sales on SCE&G's system; the amount and timing of future base rate increases; changes in fuel costs and generation mix; changes in the cost of debt, cost of equity and capital structure that make up the weighted average cost of capital; and other factors. As a result, the actual rate increases associated with investment and operation of VCSNS Units 2 & 3 may vary from those reflected on **Chart B of Exhibit M**.



EXHIBIT M, Chart A

Schedule of Year by Year Revenue Requirements

Combined Application of South Carolina Electric & Gas Company for a  
Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and  
Necessity and for a Base Load Review Order

(Thousands of \$)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Totals
<b><u>Nuclear Construction</u></b>												
Construction Work in Process in Rates	\$ 71,848	\$ 384,570	\$ 524,227	\$ 705,797	\$ 775,704	\$ 794,209	\$ 764,233	\$ 603,063	\$ 553,098	\$ 280,400	\$ 195,851	\$ 5,653,000
Cumulative	\$ 71,848	\$ 456,418	\$ 980,645	\$ 1,686,442	\$ 2,462,146	\$ 3,256,355	\$ 4,020,588	\$ 4,623,651	\$ 5,176,749	\$ 5,457,149	\$ 5,653,000	
Incremental Revenue Required	\$ 8,986	\$ 48,098	\$ 65,565	\$ 88,274	\$ 97,017	\$ 99,332	\$ 95,583	\$ 75,425	\$ 69,176	\$ 35,070	\$ 24,495	\$ 707,021
Cumulative Revenue Required	\$ 8,986	\$ 57,084	\$ 122,649	\$ 210,923	\$ 307,940	\$ 407,272	\$ 502,855	\$ 578,280	\$ 647,456	\$ 682,526	\$ 707,021	
<b><u>Transmission Projects</u></b>												
Construction Work in Process in Rates	\$ -	\$ 192	\$ 203	\$ 3	\$ 845	\$ 10,010	\$ 30,475	\$ 61,679	\$ 40,785	\$ 98,345	\$ 417,839	\$ 660,376
Cumulative	\$ -	\$ 192	\$ 395	\$ 398	\$ 1,243	\$ 11,253	\$ 41,728	\$ 103,407	\$ 144,192	\$ 242,537	\$ 660,376	
Incremental Revenue Required	\$ -	\$ 24	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ 105	\$ 1,252	\$ 3,812	\$ 7,714	\$ 5,101	\$ 12,300	\$ 52,259	\$ 82,593
Cumulative Revenue Required	\$ -	\$ 24	\$ 49	\$ 49	\$ 155	\$ 1,407	\$ 5,219	\$ 12,933	\$ 18,034	\$ 30,334	\$ 82,593	
<b><u>Total</u></b>												
Construction Work in Process in Rates	\$ 71,848	\$ 384,762	\$ 524,430	\$ 705,800	\$ 776,549	\$ 804,219	\$ 794,708	\$ 684,742	\$ 593,883	\$ 378,745	\$ 613,690	\$ 6,313,376
Cumulative	\$ 71,848	\$ 456,610	\$ 981,040	\$ 1,686,840	\$ 2,463,389	\$ 3,267,608	\$ 4,062,316	\$ 4,727,058	\$ 5,320,941	\$ 5,698,686	\$ 6,313,376	
Incremental Revenue Required	\$ 8,986	\$ 48,122	\$ 65,590	\$ 88,274	\$ 97,123	\$ 100,584	\$ 99,395	\$ 83,139	\$ 74,277	\$ 47,370	\$ 75,754	\$ 789,614
Cumulative Revenue Required	\$ 8,986	\$ 57,108	\$ 122,698	\$ 210,972	\$ 308,095	\$ 408,679	\$ 508,074	\$ 591,213	\$ 665,490	\$ 712,860	\$ 789,614	

**Assumptions:**

Gross Weighted Average Cost of Capital 12.51%

Annual Base Load Review Filing May 30

Annual CWIP True-Up June 30

Rates Effective March 30, 2009, October 30, 2009, and annually on October 30

## EXHIBIT M, Chart B

### Retail Rate Impact Projections

#### Combined Application of South Carolina Electric & Gas Company for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity and for a Base Load Review Order

(Millions of \$)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Retail Margin Forecast (existing rates)	\$ 1,272	\$ 1,303	\$ 1,340	\$ 1,373	\$ 1,401	\$ 1,365	\$ 1,378	\$ 1,392	\$ 1,420	\$ 1,449	\$ 1,478	\$ 1,508	\$ 1,538	\$ 1,559	
Base Retail Fuel Costs @ existing rates	\$ 575	\$ 618	\$ 633	\$ 650	\$ 665	\$ 657	\$ 665	\$ 673	\$ 686	\$ 700	\$ 714	\$ 728	\$ 743	\$ 754	
Nuclear Fuel Cost Adjustment									\$ (123)	\$ (123)	\$ (123)	\$ (123)	\$ (255)	\$ (255)	
Production Tax Credits Applied to Fuel Costs										\$ (124)	\$ (101)	\$ (65)	\$ (98)	\$ (98)	
Net	\$ 575	\$ 618	\$ 633	\$ 650	\$ 665	\$ 657	\$ 665	\$ 673	\$ 686	\$ 452	\$ 489	\$ 540	\$ 389	\$ 401	
Total Base Revenues	\$ 1,847	\$ 1,921	\$ 1,973	\$ 2,024	\$ 2,066	\$ 2,022	\$ 2,043	\$ 2,065	\$ 2,106	\$ 1,901	\$ 1,968	\$ 2,048	\$ 1,927	\$ 1,960	
Incremental Revenue Requirements-BLRA	\$ -	\$ 9	\$ 48	\$ 66	\$ 88	\$ 97	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 83	\$ 298	\$ 53	\$ 71	\$ 216	\$ -	1,229
Cumulative Revenue Requirements-BLRA	\$ -	\$ 9	\$ 57	\$ 123	\$ 211	\$ 308	\$ 409	\$ 508	\$ 591	\$ 889	\$ 942	\$ 1,013	\$ 1,229	\$ 1,229	
Gross Revenue	\$ 1,847	\$ 1,930	\$ 2,030	\$ 2,146	\$ 2,277	\$ 2,330	\$ 2,452	\$ 2,573	\$ 2,697	\$ 2,790	\$ 2,910	\$ 3,061	\$ 3,156	\$ 3,189	
Retail Sales	22,150	22,764	23,300	23,958	24,476	24,200	24,482	24,784	25,268	25,778	26,298	26,822	27,356	27,774	
Total \$/KWH	\$ 0.0834	\$ 0.0848	\$ 0.0871	\$ 0.0896	\$ 0.0930	\$ 0.0963	\$ 0.1001	\$ 0.1038	\$ 0.1067	\$ 0.1082	\$ 0.1107	\$ 0.1141	\$ 0.1154	\$ 0.1148	
Annual Rate Change		0.49%	2.8%	2.8%	3.8%	3.5%	4.0%	3.7%	2.8%	1.4%	2.2%	3.1%	1.1%	-0.5%	2.49%

### *Incremental Revenue requirements in 2016 and 2019 include projected in-service costs*

The forecasts listed here are indicative of the rate impacts that may be expected from construction and operation of VCSNS Units 2 & 3 on a stand-alone basis. These forecasts do not reflect overall rate changes during the period, which may include changes in such things as fuel costs, and base rates. In addition, actual rate impacts from the Units will vary based on such things as the actual rates of growth in customers and demand during the period, changes in SCE&G's cost of capital, changes in the amount and timing of investment in the Units, changes in in-service expenses, and other factors. Please see the introduction to the Exhibit for additional information.